

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Action is responsive to Applicants' Amendment filed October 7, 2010.
2. After a thorough search and examination of the present application, and in light of the following:

A review of prosecution history and BPAI decision that affirmed the Examiner's final rejection of October 3, 2005;

Applicant's Remarks filed July 16, 2010;

The prior art made of record;

Applicant's Amendment filed October 7, 2010 which amended independent claims 1 and 24 by incorporating subject matter of canceling claim 6 and added claims 30-32; and

Examiner's update search conducted against prior art on different domains;

Claims 1-5, 7-22, 24-26 and 29-32 (renumbered to 1-28) are hereby allowed.

Examiner's Amendments

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Proposed for this Examiner's Amendments as listed below was presented on October 8, 2010 in a telephone interview with Mr. Daniel C. Sheridan (registration: 53,585). The proposed Amendment was authorized on June 28, 2010.

3.1. Please amend claim 9 as follow:

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein document tags are associated with hierarchical tag domains ~~substantially~~ similar to the tag domains associated with the set of content selection tags.

Reason for Allowable

4. In Examiner's Office Action for Final Rejection of October 3, 2005, the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections was based on a primary reference by Snow et al. (U. S. Patent 6,098,066, hereafter "Snow") in view of Anderson et al. (U. S. Patent 6, 510, 434, hereafter "Anderson").

In the response filed on July 16, 2010, the Applicants argued that "Snow's search based on discrete terms does not discuss or render obvious the claimed '... generating at least one relationship between the content selection tags in the set in accordance with a predetermined rule associated with the at least one hierarchical domain..., ' let alone the claimed '... providing the content reader an indication of a document in accordance with the hierarchical tag domain and the set of content selection tags having the at least one relationship'", as the claims have been amended with the subject matter.

Based on the above arguments and a further review of the result for the searches conducted for the instant application, the below high-lighted subject matter as amended

and filed by Applicants on October 7, 2010, and further consideration of the above two references, the Examiner is persuaded that the prior art does not teach the below highlighted subject matter in each of the independent claims 1, 24 and 30 of the instant application.

receiving content selection data from a content reader;
determining by a processor a set of content selection tags from the received content selection data;
generating at least one hierarchical tag domain association for each of the content selection tags in the set;
generating at least one relationship between the content selection tags in the set in accordance with a predetermined rule associated with the at least one hierarchical tag domain;
providing the content reader an indication of a document in accordance with the hierarchical tag domain and the set of content selection tags having the at least one relationship; and
storing the set of content selection tags having the hierarchical tag domain association and the at least one relationship in association with the content reader;
wherein the content selection tags are further associated with Boolean operations in accordance with the information received from the content reader.

An update search as described above for the claims 1, 24 and 30 as of lastly amended on October 7, 2010 of the instant application, is hereby conducted and whose search result is hereby considered. The search for the prior arts has been recently conducted on EAST database for further extending and updating the scope of the searches conducted over the past on domains (EAST, NPL-ACM, Google, NPL-IEEE). The prior arts searched and investigated in domains (EAST, NPL-ACM, Google, NPL-IEEE) do not fairly teach or suggest the teaching of the combined elements as claimed in the independent claims 1, 24 and 30 of the instant application.

The parent application's dependent Claims in the groups (2-5, 7-22 and 29), (25-26) and (31-32), respectively depending upon claims 1, 24 and 30. Accordingly, instant application's (2-5, 7-22 and 29), (25-26) and (31-32) are also distinct from the prior art.

Therefore and accordingly, Claims 1-5, 7-22, 24-26 and 29-32 (renumbered to 1-28) are hereby allowed.

References

5.1. The prior art made of record:

- A. U. S. Patent No. 6,098,066,
- B. U. S. Patent No. 6,510,434,
- C. U. S. Patent No. 5,717,914, and
- E. U. S. Patent No. 5,502,637.

5.2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

D. U. S. Patent No. 6,266,682, and

F. U. S. Patent No. 5,737,739.

Conclusion

6. Any comments considered necessary by Applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to KUEN S. LU whose telephone number is (571)-272-4114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am-5:00 pm). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Pierre Vital can be reached on (571)-272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for Page 13 Published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system; contact the Electronic Business

Art Unit: 2156

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, please call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KUEN S. LU /Kuen S Lu/

Art Unit 2156

Primary Patent Examiner

October 12, 2010